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ABSTRACT

This report discusses the recent Governor's Conference, as well as the activities of Nevada's library community in addressing the national conference theme of literacy, productivity, and democracy in library and information services. Briefly highlighted are the discussion papers presented at the conference; the forums that addressed key library issues; and the results of a questionnaire sent to 21,000 citizens assessing public attitudes, preferences, opinions, and behavior toward Nevada's libraries. "Speakouts on Libraries," old-fashioned town meetings of Nevada citizens during which participants were urged to express their ideas, concerns, and interests about the future of Nevada's libraries, are also described. Proposed topics for the Governor's Conference are listed; and strategies for the year 2000 presented during the conference in order to help management personnel, librarians, political leaders, and citizens adapt to change brought about by technological innovations and the economy are summarized. Finally, the report provides the resolutions adopted during the conference on the following topics: library staffing, continuing education for library staff, interlibrary cooperation, resource sharing, technology, information access, library image, the role of libraries in building business partnerships, the role of libraries as cultural centers, the role of libraries in the educational process, services to special populations, literacy, school libraries, and funding. (GLR)

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Libraries: Key to Democracy

The Governor's Conference on the Future of Libraries

Las Vegas, Nevada — May 9-11, 1990

DEMOCRACY

LITERACY

PRODUCTIVITY

The White House Conference on Library and Information Services
Washington, D.C. — July 9-13, 1991

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WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
July 9 - 13, 1991

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OVERVIEW FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN

When Congress authorized a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held in Washington, D.C. in 1991, the Nevada library community responded enthusiastically and quickly, holding the second state conference in the nation. A year of activities centered around the national conference themes of Literacy, Productivity and Democracy. Our eagerness to participate in these activities statewide was partially predicated on the success of our first Governor's Conference held in 1978 in preparation for the 1979 White House Conference. Delegates assembled from around the state became long-term library advocates, and the resolutions they passed became the basis for planning for the rapid growth and development of Nevada's libraries in the 1980's. We expect no less from the results of our efforts reported here.

The 90's will be an era of unparalleled change and growth even more dependent on information services. Panelists and guest speakers at the conference have pointed out that services must become more user friendly; special populations, such as the aging, immigrants, and minorities, must receive special services; the collections of public school libraries must be updated. Libraries will play a key role in lifelong learning and workplace training. Futurist Paul Shay pointed out that high mobility of the American population will necessitate information and its sources to follow people, requiring a new information infrastructure. He says that libraries will become information utilities, facilitating global access to information via interfaces.

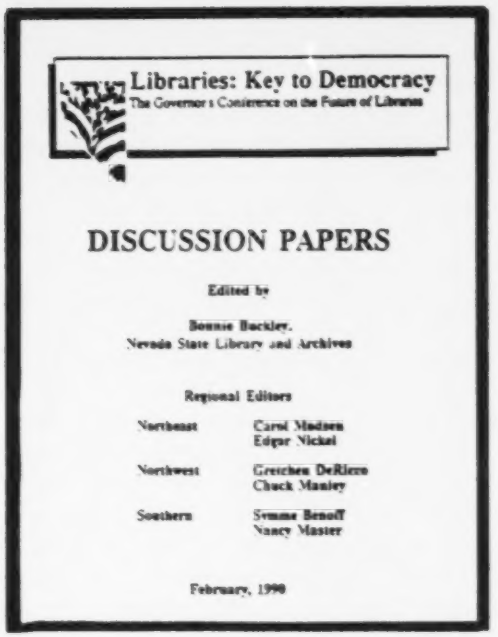
Resolutions passed by delegates to the 1990 Governor's Conference on the Future of Libraries described many of the needs of Nevada's libraries and proposed some solutions. This is, however, only the beginning of the process. We have completed an intense year-long program to identify our needs. Our libraries must now meet the challenge to develop plans and implement strategies to meet these needs, working in cooperation with our citizens, public officials and Delegates to the 1991 White House Conference on Libraries. It is with deep appreciation that I acknowledge the participation of several hundred of Nevada's citizens in this process and our Conference Delegates for their time and dedication.

STATE LIBRARIAN JOAN KERSCHNER

DISCUSSION PAPERS

Thirty-seven discussion papers on the state of library service in Nevada were authored by librarians and scholars. The papers covered a broad spectrum of topics and included useful information, creative ideas and a host of recommendations. They took a critical look at the delivery of relevant library services to a growing, changing population and illuminated key issues in library development. Some of the papers were informative on types of libraries and others were about issues or problems facing libraries in the future. Each contributed to the understanding of libraries and library service. They were offered to Conference Delegates and to libraries and librarians throughout Nevada.

Bonnie Buckley
Discussion Paper Editor



"Libraries and schools need to become cultural centers, theaters, forums, laboratories, studies, kitchens, recreational facilities, talk shows, and even part-time residence halls, indeed, homes where the disciplines are brought together to share viewpoints, to discourse on universal themes, to speculate on possibilities, to argue about moral commitments, to elaborate on value systems, to demonstrate, to heal, to create, to inspire, to mentor, to tutor, to father, to nurture and to celebrate."

Eyda McNulty
"The Humanities and Libraries."

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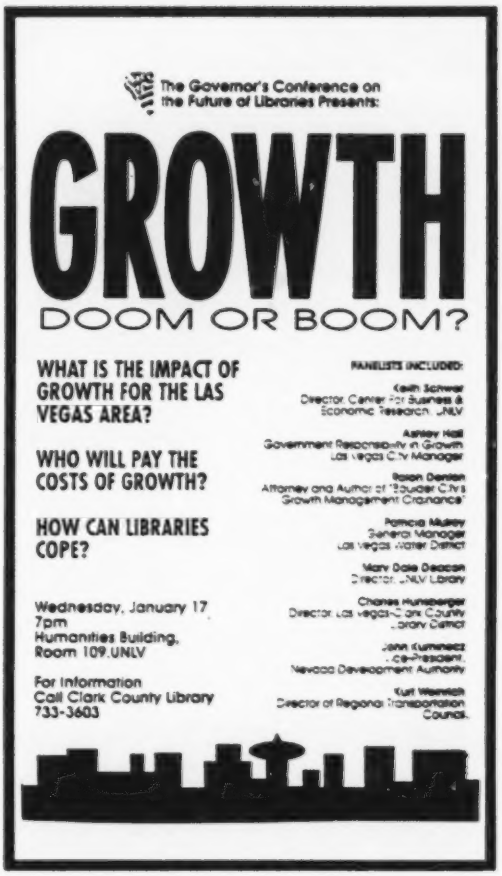
KEY ISSUE FORUMS

Key Issue Forums on significant library issues were held in Reno, Elko and Las Vegas. The forums were open to the public and highlighted issues of concern within each region. Hosted by public, university and community college libraries, the Key Issue Forums presented overviews of the issues, perspectives from experts, and audience participation in developing recommended solutions. In Reno, the Washoe County Library presented Libraries and Growth; Libraries as the Key to Lifelong Learning and Childcare and Children's Programming.

In Las Vegas, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District presented Searching for Solutions: The Homeless in Libraries. The James Dickinson Library presented Growth: Boom or Doom and the Learning Resources Center at the Clark County Community College sponsored "Technology: Tool or Tyrant." In Elko, the Learning Resources Center at the Northeast Community College hosted a Key Issues Forum which identified and prioritized such issues of concern to the people of Elko as growth, school libraries and technology.



Growth was a topic of major concern as citizens gathered to discuss the need for library services to accommodate a rapidly expanding population. The population in Las Vegas is increasing at the rate of 1,100 people per week. A mining boom in Elko and surrounding counties is also producing a demand for increased library services.

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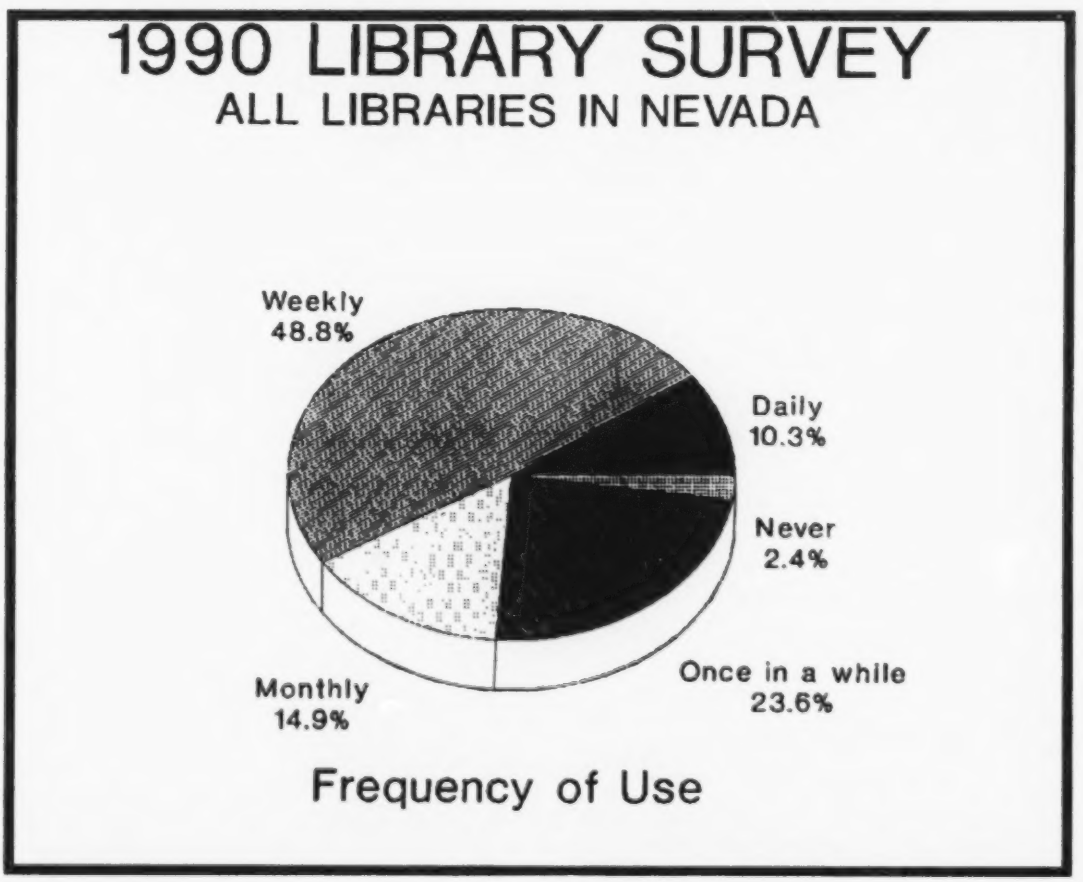
QUESTIONNAIRE

In January, 1990, Nevada libraries conducted a survey of the general public in order to assess public attitudes, preferences, opinions and behavior toward Nevada's libraries. A total of 21,000 questionnaires were distributed and 5,250 people responded.

One of the most frequently cited requests for improvement was for libraries to be open for longer hours, especially on weekends. A second request was for more books, and other requests were for additional staff, larger libraries and on-line catalogs which are easy to use. Video libraries, computers for public use and quiet reading rooms for study are also priorities of Nevada's citizens.



SPEAKOUTS

On January 31, 1990, libraries throughout Nevada held "Speakouts on Libraries," old fashioned town meetings where citizens were urged to express their ideas, concerns and interests about the future of Nevada's libraries.

Twenty-eight libraries reported results including public, university and school libraries as well as special libraries such as the Nevada Supreme Court Library, the Talking Book Library in Clark County and the Washoe County Law Library. All the Speakouts were moderated by volunteers who recorded a broad spectrum of public sentiment.

People throughout the state expressed concern that libraries are underfunded and that steps must be taken to insure adequate funding. Budget problems are especially acute in school libraries.

Library image concerned other citizens. Many felt that libraries are doing excellent jobs but that library personnel should promote services and programs to those segments of the population who are not using libraries.

Across the state, the public was concerned about the need for more library materials. People felt that collections should be expanded with books and magazines mentioned first and videos and books-on-tape following a close second.

Next, Nevadans wanted libraries to be open longer, especially school libraries which are traditionally open only when schools are in session.

Programs for special groups were mentioned at many Speakouts. Libraries should target special groups such as seniors, children or teens. Programs should be available in rural as well as urban areas and should be tied to lifelong learning. Literacy was seen as an appropriate activity for libraries.

Finally, technology was an area of major concern. Patrons want the most technologically advanced, user friendly products available in as many forms as possible. An easy-to-use on-line catalog was mentioned frequently as a must for libraries throughout the state.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Regional meetings were held March 3, 1990 in Las Vegas, Reno and Elko in order to develop issues and topics for the Governor's Conference. Participants reviewed data from all the pre-conference activities and proposed the following topics for the Conference:

ISSUES MOST FREQUENTLY CITED

1. Expand library hours.
2. Increase library materials.
3. Provide qualified, trained staff.
4. Promote and publicize library services.
5. Develop new sources of funding including a statewide bond issue.
6. Tie new library facilities to population growth and secure funds to operate them.
7. Offer opportunities for lifelong learning, including literacy training.
8. Increase programs and service to young people, especially through upgraded school libraries.
9. Provide services for special populations including latchkey children, seniors, immigrants and the homeless.
10. Increase technology in Nevada's libraries and distribute it evenly to Nevada's citizens.

STRATEGIES 2000

The Governor's Conference welcomed Carolyn Corbin to Nevada on April 12-13, 1990. Corbin wrote STRATEGIES 2000, a business bestseller named by Kiplinger's Washington Newsletter as one of the four major business books of the year. She taught the seminar, "How to Prosper in the Information Age," in Las Vegas on April 12th and in Reno on April 13th. Corbin described the new economy as information based and characterized by widespread technological innovation. In such an economy, old rules no longer apply and Corbin described new strategies to help management personnel, librarians, political leaders and citizens adapt to change.

Corbin made these observations on the future of libraries:

* Proprietors of information will be the elite... The Library is a resource that connects... all types of services and materials to specific populations and topics.

* Librarians of the future will be trained in critical skills. Libraries will be profit centers, servicing entrepreneurial organizations. Specialties will be contracted out. Libraries should target the very old and the very young.

* Demographic shifts are resulting in an aging population. Libraries will provide lifelong learning and recreation for the richest aging population ever.

* Business/education partnerships are coming. Teachers will be instructional design specialists. Students need to learn how to find, use, and critique information ... Even the basics are changing. In the old days we taught "what" to think. Now we'll teach "how" to think, directed by a facilitator. The library as recreation will be more important. Do it with pizzaz!

* ...Cognitive (knowledge) workers see the opportunities for seizing change. **Be proactive in change.** Identify skill clusters then teach kids how to use them. **Anticipate your world. Learn to do something about it!**

Corbin authored STRATEGIES 2000 in connection with her work for IBM and it has been used by major corporations and business schools nationwide. Her seminar was an exciting educational opportunity.

OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION

The Governor's Conference on the Future of Libraries was a year in the making. Scores of people throughout Nevada helped to bring it to reality. Conference Chair, Ann Langevin, was the driving force behind this effort. Ann provided outstanding leadership and guidance to everyone involved in Conference activities.

A special word of appreciation must go to those people who volunteered at the statewide level to carry out the work of the Governor's Conference. Margaret "Cookie" Moulton worked long hours to edit the LIBRARIES: KEY TO DEMOCRACY information bulletin. Harold Erickson, Funding Chairperson, raised many donations from across the state, with the help of Hailie Gunn in Elko and Eileen Schouweiler in Reno. Cynthia Gaffey, Publicity Chair, publicized the events of the conference and was helped in her efforts by Lin Anderson of Elko and Valerie Andersen of Carson City. Bonnie Buckley, Discussion Paper Editor, produced outstanding discussion papers on library issues. Banny Rucker and Rocky Gerzel distributed 21,000 questionnaires and compiled the results. Laura Golod and Diana Wilson coordinated efforts for a Speakout on Libraries, a town meeting in libraries throughout the state on January 31, 1990.

We also want to express our appreciation for the work of the regional chairpeople: Martha Gould and Carol Madsen. Their help was invaluable.

In the Northeast Region, Ed Nickel was discussion paper editor; in the Northwest, Chuck Manley and Gretchen DeRicco and in the South, Nancy Master and Symme Benoff. Their work is a lasting contribution.

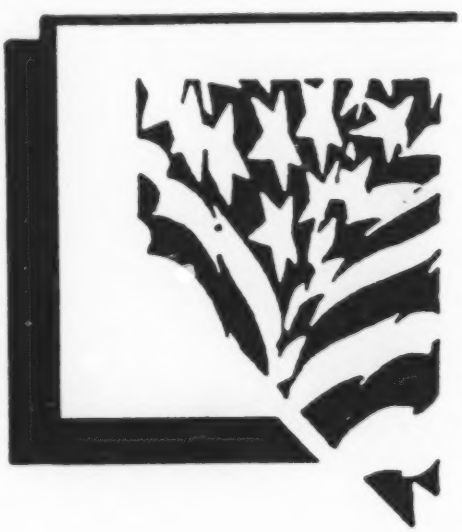
Key Issue Forums were held in each region to offer the public an opportunity to hear experts on significant library issues. Many people from across the state and the country offered their views. In the Northeast, Juanita Karr organized the Key Issue Forums; in the Northwest, Lynn Ossolinski; and in the South, Tom White who chaired a committee whose members were Marie Cuglietta, Frank Herch, Gene Nelson and Banny Rucker.

Questionnaires were distributed and collected in the Northeast by Barbara Errecart; in the Northwest by Marj Maples and Dorothy Uebele; and in the South, Banny Rucker was assisted by Nancy French and Merilyn Grosshans.

Regional meetings on March 3, 1990 were organized by Debbi Block in the Northeast, Martha Gould in the Northwest, and Frank Herch in the South.

Speakouts were chaired by Tony Lesperance in the Northeast, Michael Buckley in the Northwest and Diana Wilson in the South.

We are also very grateful to the Local Arrangements Committee, Shelley Collins, Nancy French, Laura Golod, Merilyn Grosshans, Janet Mastalir and Banny Rucker. Rocky Gerzel organized the Techno Expo.



...AND THERE WERE THOSE WHO GAVE MONEY, TOO

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science in Washington, D.C. gave $18,000. The Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City provided $2,500 through the Library Services and Construction Act and another $1,000 to defray printing and postage costs. The Nevada Library Association added $1,000.

Help in publishing was secured by a grant of $2,850 from the Nevada Mining Association.

Our Library Friends groups gave generously. The Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries contributed $2,500; University Library Society of University of Nevada, Las Vegas, $500; the Friends of Laughlin Library, $300. The Friends of Clark County Law Library sponsored the open house at the Law Library.

Libraries also helped. Of the funds provided, $1500 came from Washoe County Library and $500 came from the University of Nevada, Reno. The Henderson District Library gave $300.

Library suppliers also gave with $500 from Baker and Taylor Company, $500 from HASCO, $500 from Ebsco and $100 from Jack Graham. $100 was donated by Minolta/Comgraphix, Inc. Fielden and Partners donated $100 as did Larry Tinker of Grolier Educational Corporation. Stanley and Sharon Paher gave $75. Information Access Company donated book bags which served as registration packets. 3M Corporation generously donated the use of the photocopier.

First Interstate Bank Foundation provided $1,500. Circus Circus gave $600. Centel gave $500. and Bally's of Reno, $250. Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company contributed $200.

Legislators helped to underwrite the conference too. Donations were received from Senator Charles Joerg of Carson City, Senator Bill Raggio of Reno and Assemblywoman Renee Diamond of Las Vegas.

Librarians who contributed funds include Cynthia Gaffey, Laura Golod, Hal Erickson, Ann Langevin, Nancy French, Nancy Hudson, Banny Rucker and Janet Mastalir. The administrators of the Las Vegas Clark County Library District sponsored the reception.

To the Las Vegas Clark County Library District, we owe a debt of gratitude. They provided funds for printing, postage and travel and the staff of the Library District spent countless hours planning this conference.

Libraries: Key to Democracy
The Governor's Conference on the Future of Libraries

Information Bulletin

April-May, 1990

Conference to be held May 9-11 in Vegas

The Governor's Conference on the Future of Libraries will start off with a dramatic flair at 7 p.m. on May 9, as keynote speaker, Newbery award-winning author Gary Paulsen, talks on "Libraries or Death." The drama continues when participants leave the Union Plaza Hotel to attend the gala reception via the infamous Las Vegas trolleys to an unnamed destination. With the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District sponsoring the reception, a library location is a good bet, but local oddsmakers have not laid down a line yet on whether or not the newest of the new libraries will be ready for a pre-opening bash by the conference date.

Participants and observers will get down to business at 8 a.m. May 10 with a review of conference procedures at the breakfast buffet. At 8:30, a panel will discuss conference issues, after which there will be small group sessions to discuss and draft resolutions and a caucus of the delegates.

The luncheon speaker, futurist Paul Shay, will talk on "Meeting the Challenge of Change: Describing the Next Society and What Role Libraries Will Play." After- noon discussion groups begin where the morning groups left off.

Techno Expo will run throughout the day to provide a glimpse of the future. Sandy Milevski from the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services will demonstrate the WHCLIS Hypertext project. Rocky Gerzel of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District will demonstrate hardware and software appropriate for both small and large libraries.

The evening dinner speaker will be author C.J. Hadley on "Esoterica: A Life With Words," after which participants are invited to an open house at the new Clark County Law Library.

On Saturday morning, Conference Chair Ann Langevin will introduce White House Conference candidates. Plenary sessions, chaired by Jean Ford, begin at 9 a.m., interrupted only by lunch with Patricia Glass Schuman, co-founder and president of Neal-Schuman Publishers, speaking on "Reclaiming Our Technological Future." Plenary sessions continue after lunch. At 3:30, White House Delegates will be introduced and the conference concluded.

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, May 9

10:00-4:00	Facilitator/Recorder Workshop
7:00	Welcome and Introductions: Keynote: Gary Paulsen, Author
8:30	Gala Reception

Thursday, May 10

8:00	Breakfast Buffet Review ofConference Procedures
8:30-6:00	Techno Expo Panel on Conference Issues
8:30	Small Group Sessions
9:45	Caucus by Delegate Category
10:45	Luncheon
12:00	Speaker: Paul Shay, Futurist Small Group Sessions
1:30	No Host Cocktails
6:00	Dinner
7:00	Speaker: C.J. Hadley, Author
8:30	Open House

Friday, May 11

8:00	Buffet Breakfast
8:30	Intro of White House Candidates
9:00	Plenary Session
12:00	Luncheon
3:30	Speaker: Patricia Glass Intro of White House Delegates Conclusion

NEVADA DELEGATES AT THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE:

Sandy Akins, Karen Albrethsen, Marion Barritt, Sylvia Bartak, Darrell Batson, Peg Bergman, Joyce Betts, Elizabeth Bradt, Jane Brookey, Michael Buckley, John Clark, Ann Cook, Mary Dale Deacon, Martha Drohobyczer, Byllie D'Amato Andrews, Barbara Errecart, Stefani Evans, Frances Fine, Joseph Finkhouse, Nancy Fitzgerald, Vivian Freeman, Nancy French, Cheryl Geary, Jody Gehrig, Laura Golod, Neil Grad, Lucy Green, Martha Greene, Merilyn Grosshans, Ernie Hall, Shirley Harlan, Janie Hayes, Shelley Heaton, Frank Herch, Kevin Higgins, Henrietta Hopkins, Valorie Hopkins, Sandra Hudgens, Wendy Hughes, Paul Huss, Jan Jenkins, Sara Jones, Marie Jordan, Linda Kinard, Jeff Kintop, Edith Landau, Linda LaPierre, Mary Laub, Danny Lee, Joyce Lee, Reba Lindsey, Chuck Manley, Marj Maples, Peggy Martin, Doris Masek, Duncan McCoy, Elaine McNamara, Betty McNeal, Eyda McNulty, Harold Morehouse, Tom Mirkovich, Gene Nelson, Royal Orser, Lynn Ossolinski, Bonnie Parnell, Eugene Paslov, Edna Perkins, Nadine Phinney, Ann Louise Pugh, Michael Radding, Carolyn Rawles-Heiser, Phyllis Roy, Rene Reid, Guy Rocha, Banny Rucker, Norma Joyce Scott, Cynthia Smith, Larry Steinberg, Susan Stewart, Charles Stottlemeyer, Alice Stuart, Alice Turner, Neil Twitchell, Dorothy Uebele, M. Gorman Water, Diana Wilson, Elizabeth Woolard-Jones, Edward Wright, Leona Wright, Blanche Zucker.

GUESTS AND OBSERVERS:

Gary Avent, Judy Baird, Diane Canfield, Joyce Cashman, Paul Citro, Joyce Dixon, Jean Duhme, Carroll Gardner, C. J. Hadley, Vlasta Honsa, Charles Hunsberger, Aldona Jonynas, Juanita Karr, Robert Keene, Richard Lee, Sandra Milevski, Patricia McConnel, Sandra Munley, Bill Robinson, Eileen Schouweiler, Paul Shay, Peggy Simpson, Frank Stevens, Sandra Williams.

CONFERENCE TEAM:

Joan Kerschner, State Librarian

Ann Langevin, Conference Chairperson

Jean Ford, Plenary Session Chairperson

Cynthia Ortiz and Diane Ortiz
Parliamentarians
Janet Mastelir and Marian Martin
Registration Committee
Shelley Collins and Marie Cuglietta
Resolutions Committee
Rocky Gerzel with help of Nita John
Technoexpo
Michael Bisceglia, Volunteer Coordinator

FACILITATORS:

Dana Peck, Trainer
Bonnie Buckley, Martha Gould,
Hester Katzman, Isabelle La Porta,
Carol Madsen, Susan Southwick,
Dick Stegman, Bill Strader

RECORDERS:

Cynthia Gaffey, Ann Jarrell,
Teresa Manix, Elizabeth Parang,
Laura Oki, Gail Zachariah,
Loretta Zivalich

Libraries approaching crossroad

Conference tackles future of facilities

By Eduardo Paz-Martinez
Review-Journal

There is a moment in a Bill Moyers documentary on the American West in which a Wyoming cowboy is asked why he clings to his horseback trade while society speeds away from the pedestrian way of doing things.

"All I can know is my own time," replies the cowboy, succinctly.

What this regional anecdote has to do with Nevada libraries is little, except that when the Governor's Conference on the Future of Libraries begins Wednesday at the Union Plaza Hotel, many of the more than 100 state delegates will amble in carrying a not dissimilar variation of Moyers' question: Is there room anymore in today's community for old-fashioned libraries?

Just as the cowboy's concise answer speaks volumes about his personal definition of progress, many library professionals across the country say time and technology have caught up with the service's proud past.

On the opposite end of that sentiment is that group of delegates and citizens who argue that libraries would do patrons a disservice by retreating from their traditional role, namely, the face-to-face aspect of librarying.

Such is the 1990 conference's propitious debate, held this year in advance of a similar national White House conference to be held next spring in Washington, D.C.

Fueling the discussional embers will be three authors addressing the conference, all with diverse backgrounds and all with definite feelings on what a library of the 1990s should be.

Keynote speaker Gary Paulsen, a Minnesota writer whose more than 100 books focus on the frailty of the human spirit, has titled his opening night address, "Libraries or Death."

A second featured speaker, Nevada writer C.J. Hadley, who admits to being loyal to the libraries of old, says electronic gadgetry does not in itself represent progress.

"Personally, I'd rather see the written word as the most important thing in the library," Hadley adds. "But if it takes a game to turn a kid on, I guess it's good."

Her address, scheduled for Thursday evening, is titled: "Esoterica: A Life With Words."

Hadley, a former editor of Nevada magazine and a resident of Carson City, will focus on the manner in which many Americans have bastardized the English language.

Third speaker Paul Shay, a self-described futurist and Californian who will address the conference at noon Thursday, minces no words.

He says he has seen the future and it is everything the anti-technology library crowd scorns: Computers instead of library helpers, Fax machines instead of bookmobiles and everything electronic wizardry can bring to the consumer market place.

In fact, Shay calls today's better libraries "informational utilities" — providers of a needed service to their communities in the same league with the power and water companies.

"In the old days, we talked about the haves and have-nots. Now its the knows and the know-nots," he says. "In other words, in the industrial era, men and women served the machines. In the new information era, the machines serve us."

Like many librarians, Shay predicts the ability to obtain information rapidly — whether it be a genealogical search or a request for the latest government figure on the national deficit — will eventually win over critics.

"There are tremendous obstacles," he adds, however. "But the changes that have arrived at the library doorstep are happening to all of our institutions. When the librarian becomes someone not to take care of access to books on shelves, but has to become skilled at the new high-tech, then it's a completely new ballgame. Librarians today are what I call the gold-collar workers, people who really make a difference in society."

The benefit of the new philosophy?

"The benefit will be a new kind of democracy, the empowerment of the individual," Shay says. "The individual will be able to access any kind of knowledge on the planet instantly. The librarian will be his coach and adviser. Libraries are the new form of wealth, gates to the future."

The "renaissance" movement toward modernization is relatively new within librarying, although Shay says the advances were predictable and only waiting for the incorporation of computers into society's mainstream.

Shay and others do not criticize the old neighborhood library. There is a place in America for the basic provision of books service, especially in rural areas, he says.

Shay further characterizes this year's conference as "a watershed event," an event of enormous importance "because it is identifying many of the new information needs and some of the new ways of serving those needs."

Out of this debate, to play out during numerous seminars, discussions and caucuses, state delegates hope to define the Nevada agenda for inclusion to the national debate.

Cowboys or spaceboys.

Horses or rockets.

A novel in book form, or an author's entire writings on floppy disk.

It is in those either-or terms that many in librarying see the profession's growth crisis.

For Nevadans, the debate begins at 7 p.m. with Paulsen's speech. It is free and open to the public.

Gov. Bob Miller is expected to attend.

GARY PAULSEN
Keynote speaker

C.J. HADLEY
Loyal to old libraries

PAUL SHAY
California futurist

Library conference hears how books give meaning to life

By Eduardo Paz-Martinez
Review-Journal

Beginning their three-day convention Wednesday with the premise that libraries "are in the business of dreams," delegates to the Governor's Conference on the Future of Libraries offered the stage to an ex-convict.

What they heard from Las Vegas writer Patricia McConnel — who served two years behind bars in a West Virginia prison for trafficking in narcotics and served the convention as keynote speaker — was that it isn't just the free that need books.

"We in this country are at a point in time very much like that of Germany under (Adolf) Hitler," she said. "There is an incredible amount of sadism going on in the prisons of this country."

McConnel, a last-minute replacement for Minnesota author Gary Paulsen, who cried illness in canceling his visit to Las Vegas, urged delegates, who are meeting to formulate the Nevada agenda for inclusion in the national White House conference on libraries scheduled next summer, to consider the plight of the prisoner.

"The need is drastic," she said. "The need is to save lives."

McConnel noted that Nevada does not directly allocate funding for purchase of books within prison libraries, adding that some money is made available to wardens who are given the discretion to buy books, or use it elsewhere.

> *"Prisoners get the lab rat syndrome. Without enough room, they start tearing each other to pieces."*
>
> Patricia McConnel
> *Keynote speaker*

"Prisoners get the lab rat syndrome," she explained. "Without enough room, they start tearing each other to pieces."

McConnel cited the case of a personal friend who is incarcerated in Arizona. It has been books, she said, that have allowed him to educate himself behind bars to the point that he is now "a jailhouse lawyer."

Without books, McConnel said, her friend — and most other prisoners — would never survive the rigors of prison life, especially when illiteracy is so precominant among convicts.

"I urgently ask you to include in your consideration and thoughts these people who are being ground into powder by the system," McConnel said to the group of about 100 delegates, adding that she herself is a high school dropout largely educated by public and, while jailed, prison libraries.

"Self-education is the single most important thing — the most vital thing — a prisoner can do with time," she said. "It is essential if he is going to turn it around."

The conference, which continues through Friday, will address a myriad of issues surrounding library science as a profession and libraries as a service.

In welcoming the delegates to the sessions being held at the Union Plaza Hotel, conference chairwoman Ann Langevin said the aim is to examine the issues and draft creative ideas needed by libraries to serve the new "information age" patron.

"This is a serious undertaking," she said. "Today in America we are beset by problems of waning productivity, decline in literacy, a staggering budget deficit and threats to America's competitive edge in the world marketplace."

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Libraries: Key to Democracy

The Governor's Conference on the Future of Libraries

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 11, 1991

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
1991

NEVADA

THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON MAY 11, 1990

Topic: LIBRARY STAFFING

Issue: Many Nevada libraries are understaffed and library employees have not had opportunities for adequate training. Changing technology, frequent staff changes, and isolation of worksites necessitate training and retraining of library staff.

Resolved that: Nevada libraries should adhere to American Library Association standards.

Nevada libraries should develop a statewide program for Continuing Education and observe affirmative action policies in hiring and training.

Library Science programs tied to career ladders or salary increments to ensure participation should be offered by Nevada universities/libraries.

Topic: CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LIBRARY STAFF

Issue: The swiftly accelerating rate of change in all aspects of life and society dramatically affect libraries and those who work in them. Growing demands for services and decreasing financial resources necessitate educated decision making. Library users have sophisticated information needs and staying abreast of technological advances is essential.

Resolved that: Continuing Education is critically important to library staff. Therefore, Nevada State Library and Archives should consistently include a line item in its budget for Continuing Education. Be it further resolved that two areas of immediate priority in providing continuing education are in fund raising and the use and application of new technologies in libraries.

Topic: INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION

Issue: Access to the rapidly expanding base of information and knowledge is the task of all libraries. Given the explosion of knowledge and the limited resources of any core library, ongoing and effective access can be accomplished only through cooperative efforts using new technology. Funding will be required to provide essential training and appropriate hardware and software, and to encourage sharing and access to information and knowledge through electronic networks.

Resolved that: Libraries should involve the private sector by demonstrating the power of technology and enlisting support through donations.

Nevada State Library and Archives should include a line item in its budget for library technology development.

The U.S. Congress should reauthorize and expand the LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) Title III, to: support and promote interlibrary cooperation and resource sharing, subsidize postal rates for libraries, and provide library discount rates from common carriers of electronic data.

Under leadership of the Nevada State Library and Archives, alternative and speedy forms of delivery of library resources should be explored and implemented.

Topic: RESOURCE SHARING

Issue: The highest priority of library needs for ALL TYPES OF LIBRARIES in the state of Nevada is for more books, periodicals, and all forms of library materials. Library materials have become extremely expensive, making it imperative to increase sharing of resources among libraries. Nevada libraries have made great progress in linking all locations through an effective network, resulting in increased demands for interlibrary loans. This additional workload causes stress on the system both in urban and rural libraries due to inadequate collections and understaffing.

Resolved that: Nevada libraries must work together to strengthen and share library collections including all forms of print and non-print media.

Resolved that: The Nevada State Library and Archives should include in its future budgets a line item specifically for the purpose of helping to meet the impact of resource sharing on local libraries. The amount of such support will be set at least as high as one-half the average cost of such interlibrary loans as determined by the Nevada State Library and Archives. Be it further resolved that the leadership of this Conference write a letter to the Governor conveying this resolution to him.

Topic: TECHNOLOGY

Issue: Due to the increasing rate of technological change in library functions there is a constant need for consulting on all aspects of automation statewide.

Resolved that: A position of Coordinator of Library Automation should be created within the Nevada State Library and Archives. This position would include planning, coordinating, consulting, and inservice training on telecommunication, automation, and technological advances related to libraries. Because library technology may be a barrier to some library users, programs for orientation and instruction on the use of automated catalogs and other databases should be implemented immediately.

Topic: INFORMATION ACCESS

Issue: Due to trends toward privatization and commercialization of information, decreasing access to some forms of government information, and various other forms of censorship, the democratic right of free and equal access to information is endangered. Federally imposed limitations on availability of government information require innovative response to consumer demand.

Resolved that: The Nevada Legislature should create a STATE INFORMATION POLICY affirming that information of all types be preserved and that all residents of Nevada have the right of equal access to information and knowledge in all its forms.

Issue: Many Nevada residents do not have access to community information and referral services.

Resolved that: Public libraries should provide easy access to all types of information and materials about available services, programs, and resources. Libraries should coordinate and cooperate with all agencies and organizations (at community, state, and federal levels) to identify and provide information and referral on all available programs and services.

Issue: Rural residents do not have adequate libraries and information services due to small local tax bases, resulting in inadequate collections and short hours of service.

Resolved that: The Nevada State Library and Archives in cooperation with the Nevada State Advisory Council on Libraries should establish and articulate minimum standards for rural collections, services and public access.

Topic: LIBRARY IMAGE

Issue: Libraries are perceived by many strictly as repositories for information rather than services for people. The "image" of libraries must be improved to heighten visiblity and increase numbers of library users. Programs are needed to bring new users into libraries and to encourage reading and use of libraries from infancy throughout life.

Resolved that: The Nevada State Library and Archives staff should include a specialist who would develop programs, information, and publicity communicating an image of libraries as places for people. The specialist would write and edit for newspapers and other publications and work with librarians and media professionals to develop marketing strategies and activities, including prime time TV spots and other forms of publicity to increase public awareness of library programs. Publicity campaigns should target new users and non-users at state and local levels. The specialist should participate in marketing programs with the Commissions on Economic Development and Tourism and with businesses and other public agencies.

Topic: ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN BUILDING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Issue: Although some businesses have their own libraries, public libraries play an essential role in economic vitality through service to business and industry.

Resolved that: Libraries should develop partnerships with business and industry and build collections and services to meet specified needs. Libraries should foster reciprocal relations with business partners and should package and publicize services to meet specific needs of the business community.

Topic: ROLE OF LIBRARIES AS CULTURAL CENTERS

Issue: Libraries represent more than information, learning, and recreational functions.

Resolved that: Libraries are cultural centers and should provide programs in the arts and humanities in response to community demand and in relation to the unique multi-cultural milieu in the state of Nevada.

Topic: ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

Issue: Libraries have been perceived as supplemental service to education rather than an essential and integral part of the educational process.

Resolved that: Interlocal agreements articulating the role of the library as a center for lifelong learning should be developed to foster and strengthen cooperative programming among schools, libraries, and other educational entities.

Topic: SERVICES TO SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Issue: The State of Nevada does not provide funding for recreational/educational libraries and certified librarians for the State's prison population.

Resolved that: The State should provide libraries and certified librarians in prisons based on nationally recognized standards. The Nevada Department of Prisons should be directed to create a permanent budget line item program under guidance of the Nevada State Advisory Council on Libraries, and all prison facilities (including those with less than 250 incarcerated persons) should be incorporated into a system providing equal access to prison and public library materials.

Issue: Libraries do not provide adequate services for senior citizens including people in nursing or retirement homes.

Resolved that: Public libraries should expand collections and services to meet the needs of senior citizens and to provide special programs for those in nursing and retirement homes.

Issue: Library services do not reach all the children.

Resolved that: Each public library should expand children's services to meet the needs of all youth in each community, including children in day care, latch key programs, and incarcerated youth. Libraries should include traditional programs such as reading clubs and story hours, as well as innovative programs such as preschool computer literacy, writing workshops, and teaching creative and constructive thinking skills. Each public library should be staffed with a trained, degreed children's librarian, and the use of volunteers encouraged.

Issue: Some segments of the population including illiterate, handicapped, ethnic groups, homeless and other special populations are not using and/or benefitting from library services.

Resolved that: Each public library in Nevada should develop programs sensitive to the needs of diverse, multi-cultural or impaired populations, work with other local and state agencies to improve access, develop marketing and outreach programs to publicize library programs and services, and provide training to sensitize staff to the needs of special groups.

Topic: LITERACY

Issue: An estimated 10% of Nevada's population is illiterate. Literacy is a dollars and cents issue, costing the state millions of dollars per year. Nevada has a high percentage of adult non-readers and approximately 30% of our youth drop out of school before graduation. The consequences of illiteracy include loss of self-esteem, dignity, productivity, potential, and ability to contribute to society. Social problems such as crime, substance abuse, hopelessness, and despair are frequently linked to illiteracy.

Resolved that: Governing bodies of local libraries should initiate and continue to fund literacy programs in libraries. Libraries should allocate space for collections and activities, serve as centers of identification and referral, and train staff to be sensitive to the special needs of non-reading adults.

The State Legislature should increase funding to the Literacy Coalition Office within the Nevada State Library and Archives. The State Literacy Coordinator's budget should be increased to strengthen coordination and cooperation of programs among all public and private providers of services to adult non-readers.

Topic: SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Issue: Only 66 per cent of area schools are served by licensed librarians. Most of those are in high schools. Of non- licensed librarians, 68 per cent have less than 10 hours of library school.

Resolved that: Licensed school librarians be required in all schools of 250 or more students. Schools with fewer than 250 students must be served by at least a part-time librarian. For every additional 500 students, one technical support person must be added.

Issue: School library collections are inadequate and obsolete, particularly in geography, science and history; many collections include materials with gender, racial, and ethnic bias. Nevada school libraries budget only $6.00 per student compared to the national average of $15.67 per student; only 18.5 per cent of school libraries have even 20 books per student, and audio visual software collections are old and outdated.

Resolved that: The State of Nevada should develop a formula to provide specific line item funding for school library collection development and maintenance based on national guidelines.

Issue: Information is expanding at an incredible pace, and children and youth need to access a vast array of general and specific information. School library card catalog systems are antiquated and should be upgraded to provide access to information through participation in automated networks.

Resolved that: The State should provide sufficient funds to automate every school library and provide training and support for full utilization of an automated information retrieval system. School libraries should be included in the Union Catalog. The Nevada State Library and Archives and the Department of Education should cooperatively develop and complete, within 5 years, a retrospective conversion of all school library catalogs and provide staff assistance as necessary.

Issue: The changing role of the school librarian requires continuous updating of library skills, especially in library science.

Resolved that: Coursework in library science should be required for at least half of the credit necessary to renew a Nevada Library Media Specialist license.

Issue: Many elementary school libraries operate under a fixed schedule/closed library situation providing preparation time for teachers. Students need free access to the library for information needs throughout the day. Library skills are best taught at the point of need.

Resolved that: The state should provide sufficient funding to local school districts to allow teachers preparation time through a source other than the school library.

Issue: Due to inconsistency and inadequacy of resources, facilities, and staffing Nevada school libraries are not meeting the minimum state and national standards.

Resolved that: The existing MEDIA STANDARDS FOR NEVADA SCHOOL LIBRARIES should be revised to incorporate the national guidelines stated in INFORMATION POWER, GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAMS. Each school district should develop a plan to meet the Standards published by the Nevada Department of Education.

Topic: FUNDING

Issue: Publicly supported libraries need increased funding to catch up and keep pace with demand for library materials, staffing, and programs to meet the needs of a burgeoning population. Policy makers, educators, and people in the private sector must be educated on the importance and need for essential services provided by libraries. Legislators must recognize the importance of supporting and expanding statewide library programs through appropriations on a continuing basis to ensure adequate services to all Nevadans.

Resolved that:

Each library should conduct a professional analysis of demand for services in the community and incorporate the results into a written plan as the rationale for seeking additional funds for collections, staffing, and increased hours of service.

An ad hoc committee of statewide library supporters should be established to develop funding strategies based on factual assessments and direct a lobbyist to articulate library needs to legislators and others.

Public libraries (including school, academic, and special libraries serving the public) must aggressively pursue public education and involvement necessary to maintain currency of collections and increase services and staffing levels as needed.

Continuing education should be provided to all libraries on fundraising techniques including establishing endowments and writing grant proposals to supplement resources.

Special libraries, such as law and medical libraries which support research activities, should pursue additional funding immediately in order to meet increasing costs for providing information which requires advanced technologies, i.e. access to specialized technical and full text databases.

Libraries should seek adequate funding by deriving taxes from business and industry; creating public/private partnerships with business to supplement government funding; developing special projects to be sponsored by the private sector; and initiating bond issues when applicable.

Resolved that: A developers' fee on new commercial and private construction should be established to support existing and new library facilities. The fees would be collected by counties and distributed by the State.

The State should provide continuous funding for local libraries. Additional funds to update materials and services could be provided at 10 per cent of local operating budget in libraries serving communities with populations of up to 250,000, and 5 per cent for over 250,000.

The State should provide increased funding to provide adequate library services to all citizens and should consider taxes on mining and gaming for revenues dedicated to public, academic, school, and special libraries serving the public.

Note: These recommendations were adopted on May 11, 1990, revised on May 18, 1990, and reviewed by Conference Delegates.